

In the Claims:

1-30. (Canceled)

31. (Original): A computer program product for telecommunications comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a first computer instruction means for reading a request message transmitted from a source node and received at an antenna located aboard an aircraft;

a second computer instruction means for writing a modified request message including data about said aircraft to a storage device coupled to an aircraft transmitter;

a third computer instruction means for reading an acknowledgment message transmitted from a destination node in response to broadcast of said modified request message; and

a fourth computer instruction means for writing a modified acknowledgment message including said data about said aircraft to said storage device for transmission from said aircraft and whereby a circuit is established for routing a data message between said source node and said destination node via said aircraft.

32. (Original): The computer program product of claim 31 further comprising:

a fifth computer instruction means for reading an aircraft position information.

33. (Original): The computer program product of claim 32 further comprising a sixth computer instruction means for predicting if communications over said circuit can be maintained during a predefined time interval.

34. (Original): An apparatus for routing messages in a telecommunications network comprising:

an input:

an output; and

a signal processing device, coupled to said input and to said output, for:

reading a request message transmitted from a source node, received at an antenna located aboard an aircraft and provided to said input;

outputting a modified request message including data about said aircraft;

reading an acknowledgment message transmitted from a destination node in response to a broadcast of said modified request message; and

outputting a modified acknowledgment message including said data about said aircraft for transmission from said aircraft whereby a circuit is established for routing a data message between said source node and said destination node via said aircraft.

35. (Original): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said signal processing device comprises a general purpose processor.

36. (Original): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said signal processing device comprises a router.

37. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said input is further adapted to receive signals indicative of aircraft position and wherein said signal ~~processor~~processing device determines if communications can be maintained during a predefined time interval with a communications node within reception range of said aircraft transmitter.

38-43. (Canceled)

44. (New): The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein outputting is performed if the processing device determines that communications can be maintained during the pre-defined time interval with a communications node within reception range of the aircraft transmitter.

45. (New): A method for telecommunications comprising:

- receiving a message request from a node at an antenna located aboard an aircraft;
- determining if said message request is destined for said aircraft;
- retransmitting said message request from said aircraft when said message request is destined for another aircraft, wherein said message request includes navigation information of the node;
- predicting a future position of said aircraft;
- predicting a future position of the node based on the received navigation information;
- determining if communications can be maintained with said node over a predefined time interval, wherein the message request includes a unique identifier;
- recording all the nodes the message request has visited; and
- establishing a communication circuit when the message request is determined to reach the node that corresponds to the destination node, the destination node determines that the received message request is the first message request received that has the unique identifier.

46. (New): The method of Claim 45, further comprising:

- sending a communication circuit confirmation message from the destination node to the source node after establishment of the communication circuit;
- wherein the sent confirmation message travels to the source node based on the recorded nodes associated with the received message request.

47. (New): The method of Claim 46, further comprising:

    sending a message associated the message request from the source node to the destination node based on the confirmation message, wherein the confirmation message includes the recorded nodes of the associated message request used to establish the communication.